(b) whether there is any need to reivew this scheme; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reform such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) The basis of formulation of JRY-Innovative scheme is to benefit special groups of rural poor people or areas which are getting by-passed by the ongoing Rural Development Programmes.

(b) to (c) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was reviewed and the programme was streamlined and restructured from 1.1.96. The sub-schemes of JRY i.e. IAY and MWS were made independent schemes. Intensified JRY was discontinued and merged with EAS. It was decided to continue Innovative JRY with *5%* earmarking of the total outlay of JRY or Rs. 75.00 crores whichever is less during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Delicencing of specified food sectors

176. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to delicence some specified food sectors has been under Government's consideration;

(b) whether the Ministry has examined various aspects of those proposals; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) to (c) Action has already been initiated for repealing the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 19S8 and Rules thereunder. Under the said Act, licence is required for carrying out rice milling operations. The concerned State Governments are empowered to issue licences under this Act.

Losses of SEBs

177. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated losses of various State Electricity Boards;

(b) the reasons for incurring losses by these SEBs;

(c) whether certain State Governments have revised the power tariffs during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how far this is going to improve the financial performance of SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The cumulative losses of the SEBs at the end of March, 1995 were Rs. 514.83 crores after talcing into account RE subsidy as provided in the accounts.

(b) The reasons for the losses of the SEBs, inter-alia, inlcude unremunerative tariff including low agricultural and domestic tariff, non-conversion of loans into equity, high T&D losses, low level of Plant Load Factor (PLF), High fuel consumption in Thermal Power Stations (TPSs), etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Orissa, Nagaland, Haryana, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Ahmedabad Electric Company have revised the tariff during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

(e) Against the average cost of supply of power of 156.66 paise/kwh, during 1994-95, the average realisation was only 134.36 paise/kwh, thus leaving a gap of 22.30 paise/kwh. Financial performance of the State Electricity Boards would improve to the extent the realisation is increased as a result of power tariff revision.

Rural Water Supply Scheme for SC areas in West Godavari District

178. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to finance and delivery system for rural water supply scheme for scheduled caste areas under

Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken into assist such needy area in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme 25% funds are to be spent for providing safe drinking water for SC population. As per Action Plan for 1966-97, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has earmarked Rs. 5.77 crore for West Godavari district. All the "Not Covered" (NC) and Partially Covered (0-10 lped) have to be covered by 1997-98, as per the directions of the Government of India.

Development of Technology to produce Bio-Crude

179. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 474 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1996 and state the details of further studies and research made regarding the project on introduction, screening and cultivation of potential petro-crops and their conversion in to petroleum hydrocarbons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGENDRA K.ALAGH): The Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun and the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow of CSIR had undertaken R&D work on introduction, screening and cultivation of petrocrops and their conversion to petroleum hydrocarbons. The studies carried out have resulted in identification of Eurphobia antisyphilitica as the petrocrop having highest potential for producing transportation liquied fuels. A 15 percent conversion of the biomass to liquid fuel was demonstrated. The development of the technology package is linked to its techno-economic feasibility/ viability.

Dispute between NTPC and DESU

180. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi is facing power crisis mainly due to growing disputes between NTPC and DESU;

(b) whether lack of coordination between different agencies dealing with generation and distribution of power in Delhi is creating artificial power crisis in the capital; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to identify the loopholes and improve the power situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) At present there is no power crisis in Delhi. However, problems relating to supply/ movement of coal in respect of generating stations of DESU and Badarpur Thermal Power Station at Delhi are resolved from time to time as and when the need arises.

Temper proof seal for LPG cylinders

181. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the domestic LPG cylinders do not have temper proof metalic seal, resulting inpilferage of LPG by unscrupulous dealers and deliverymen;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present metalic seal of the domestic LPG cylinders, particularly supplied by Indian Oil Corporation, comes out easily along with cap and can be easily replaced without any difficulty; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take to provide domestic LPG cylinders with temper proof seals, to ensure required quantity of LPG therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIT.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.